

REMARKS

Needed changes are made herewith in the specification.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested, for the rejection of the claims as anticipated by or unpatentable over JIANG et al. U.S. Patent 6,213,651, alone or in view of what we teach to be prior art.

The rejection falls down in that nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests a transparent second connection member fixed near the first member in such a way as to shut the first opening and the second opening of the first connection member at a front of the first connection member. By contrast, in JIANG, two separate transparent members 421 and 423 are provided, one to shut the first opening and the other to shut the second opening of the first connection member of JIANG, as seen in Fig. 6A of JIANG.

Nothing in JIANG would suggest the desirability of a single transparent member closing both openings; and furthermore, the structure of JIANG would not permit it. Therefore, it is an altogether impermissible reconstruction of JIANG, only by hindsight in the light of the teaching of the present application, by which the same transparent member could close both openings.

The advantages of the present invention as to this feature are clear: only a single member need be provided, which can be easily moved into a recess in the first connection member,

thereby automatically aligning any lenses present on the transparent second connection member with the respective openings of the first connection member. No special seats for two transparent members need be provided, as in JIANG. Moreover, when lenses are present on the transparent member, the spacing between them is automatically correctly achieved because they are both on the same member.

Furthermore, as to claims 2 and 4, it is not accurate to say that JIANG teaches the second connection member being formed by a thin plate of plastic or glass. In Fig. 6A of JIANG, two spheres are disclosed, 421 and 423. To say that these collectively are a thin plate of plastic or glass, is quite inaccurate.

As to claim 11, the Official Action indicates that JIANG teaches opposing ends of fibers being contacted by the transparent second connection member. In Fig. 6A of JIANG, however, it will be seen that the fibers 422 are spaced from the transparent members 421 and 423; and again, nothing in JIANG would teach or suggest the desirability of one pressing against the other.

As to claim 12, the Official Action suggests that the protrusion of opposite ends of the fibers backward from a rear face of the connector would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, because it would have the advantage of allowing the optical fiber connector and the optical transceiver to be

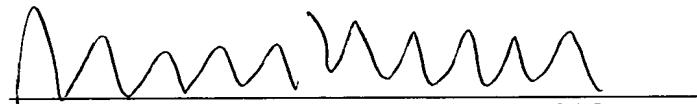
coupled to each other. In fact, however, nothing in JIANG suggests this or indeed permits it. Accordingly, such a holding is mere hindsight in the light of the teaching of the present application.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing Remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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